

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A communication system for a digital television system including an interactive response system in communication with a television of the digital television system, the interactive response system being contained in a set-top-box that is in communication with the television and that converts a received digital television signal into television content, and being arranged to accept an input from a user in response to an output signal produced by the television, the interactive response system then being operative to trigger a communication between the user and a remote third party, wherein the communication is dependent upon the output signal produced by the television.

2. (previously presented): A communication system according to claim 1, wherein the set-top-box is integrated in a digital television.

3. (previously presented): A communication system according to claim 1, wherein the interactive response system triggers the communication via a digital television network.

4. (previously presented): A communication system according to claim 1, wherein the interactive response system is downloaded into the set-top-box upon first use of the input by a user; and wherein the output signal is produced by a remote control to the set-top box and from the set-top box to a headend.

5. (original): A communication system according to claim 1, further comprising a processing system in communication with the interactive response system, wherein the interactive response system triggers a communication by communicating details of the output signal to the processing system, the processing system being arranged to determine the communication to be triggered in dependence on the output signal and to initiate the communication.

6. (original): A communication system according to claim 5, wherein the processing system is arranged to determine the mode of communication in dependence on the output signal.

7. (original): A communication system according to claim 5, wherein the processing system is arranged to determine the content of the communication in dependence on the output signal.

8. (original): A communication system according to claim 5, wherein the interactive response system communicates with the processing system via a communication network.

9. (original): A communication system according to claim 8, wherein the communication network is one of a public service telephone network (PSTN), and a cellular network (PLMN).

10. (original): A communication system according to claim 8, wherein the communication network is one of a cable system, a digital satellite television system, a digital terrestrial television system or a broadband network television system.

11. (original): A communication system according to claim 5, wherein the processing system is in a location remote to the user and is arranged to serve a plurality of users.

12. (original): A communication system according to claim 1, wherein the output signal represents one of: an email, an electronic address book, and a voicemail message.

13. (original): A communication system according to claim 12, wherein the remote third party is a voice recording system arranged to record a voice message as an electronic file, wherein the interactive response system is operative to trigger a telephone call between a telephone associated with the user and the voice recording system for recording of an electronic file, the communication system being arranged to transmit the electronic file as an attachment to an email to the sender of the output signal.

14. (original): A communication system according to claim 12, wherein the remote third party is a telephone associated with the sender of the output signal, wherein the interactive response system is operative to trigger a telephone call between a telephone associated with the user and the telephone associated with the sender of the output signal.

15. (original): A communication system according to claim 12, wherein the remote third party is a voicemail system associated with a sender of the output signal, wherein the interactive response system is operative to trigger a telephone call between a telephone associated with the user and the voicemail system.

16. (original): A communication system according to claim 1, further comprising a voice recording system arranged to record voice messages as electronic files, wherein the output signal represents a future date and/or time, the interactive response system being operative to trigger a telephone call between a telephone associated with the user and the voice recording system for recording of an electronic file, the communication system associating the electronic file with the future date and/or time and being arranged to call a telephone associated with the user on the date and/or time and play the electronic file to the user.

17. (original): A communication system according to claim 1, wherein the output signal represents one of: a television broadcast, a banner overlying a television broadcast, a web page or an information page.

18. (original): A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the interactive response system is operative to trigger a telephone call between a telephone associated with the user and a telephone system associated with the output signal.

19. (original): A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the interactive response system is operative to transmit a request to the remote third party, the request comprising information on a content of the output signal and information on the user, wherein the remote third party uses the information to communicate with the user about the content.

20. (original): A communication system according to claim 19, wherein the request is communicated electronically to a computer system associated with the output signal.

21. (original): A communication system according to claim 19, wherein the request is an email to a computer system associated with the output signal.

22. (original): A communication system according to claim 19, wherein the remote third party communicates with the user via one of: email, post or via a telephone call.

23. (previously presented): An interactive response method for a digital television system, comprising:

accepting an input from a user in response to an output signal produced by a television of the digital television system, the input being accepted at a set-top-box that is arranged to be in communication with the television and that converts a received digital television signal into

television content; and triggering a communication between the user and a remote third party, wherein the communication is dependent upon the output signal produced by the television.

24. (previously presented): A method according to claim 23, wherein the step of accepting comprises receiving the input at a set-top-box arranged to communicate with the digital television system via a television network.

25. (original): A method according to claim 24, wherein the step of triggering comprises: communicating details of the output signal from the set-top-box to a processing system; determining at the processing system the communication to be triggered in dependence on the output signal; and initiating the communication.

26. (original): A method according to claim 25, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining a type of communication in dependence on the output signal.

27. (original): A method according to claim 25, wherein the step of determining further comprises determining content of the communication in dependence on the output signal.

28. (original): A method according to claim 25, wherein the step of communicating comprises communicating via one of a communication network, a public service telephone

network, a cable system, a digital satellite television system, a digital terrestrial television system, and a broadband network.

29. (original): A method according to claim 24, further comprising downloading computer program code corresponding to the interactive response method into the set-top-box upon first use of the input by a user.

30. (original): A method according to claim 24, wherein the output signal represents one of: an email, an electronic address book, and a voicemail message.

31. (original): A method according to claim 30, wherein the step of triggering a communication comprises: triggering a telephone call between a telephone associated with the user and a voice recording system for recording of an electronic file; and transmitting the electronic file as an attachment to an email to the sender of the output signal.

32. (original): A method according to claim 30, wherein the step of triggering a communication comprises triggering a telephone call between a telephone associated with the user and a telephone associated with the sender of the output signal.

33. (original): A method according to claim 30, wherein the step of triggering a communication comprises a telephone call between a telephone associated with the user and a voicemail system.

34. (original): A method according to claim 24, wherein the output signal represents a future date and/or time, the step of triggering comprising:

triggering a telephone call between a telephone associated with the user and a voice recording system for recording of an electronic file;

associating the electronic file with the future date and/or time; and

calling a telephone associated with the user on the date and/or time and playing the electronic file to the user.

35. (original): A method according to claim 24, wherein the output signal represents one of: a television broadcast, a banner overlying a television broadcast, a web page, and an information page.

36. (original): A method according to claim 35, wherein the step of triggering a communication comprises triggering a telephone call between a telephone associated with the user and a telephone system associated with the output signal.

37. (original): A method according to claim 35, wherein the step of triggering a communication comprises generating a request the request comprising information on a content of the output signal and information on the user, and transmitting the request to the remote third party, wherein the remote third party uses the information to communicate with the user about the content.

38. (original): A method according to claim 37, wherein the step of transmitting the request to the remote third party comprises communicating the request electronically to a computer system associated with the output signal.

39. (original): A method according to claim 37, wherein the step of transmitting the request to the remote third party comprises sending the request as an email to a computer system associated with the output signal.

40. (original): A method according to claim 37, wherein the remote third party communicates with the user via one of: email, post, and a telephone call.

41. (previously presented): A computer readable medium, on which is stored a computer program of instructions for a set-top-box for an interactive response system for a digital television system, comprising, in combination:

means for enabling the set-top-box to accept an input from a user in response to an output signal produced by a television of the digital television system, the set-top-box being in communication with the television and operable to convert a received digital television signal into television content; and

means for enabling the set-top-box to trigger a communication between the user and a remote third party, wherein the communication is dependent upon the output signal produced by the television.

42. (previously presented): A computer readable program according to claim 41, wherein the means for enabling the set-top-box to trigger a communication comprises:

means for enabling the computer to communicate details of the output signal to a processing system;

means for enabling the processing system to determine the communication to be triggered in dependence on the signal; and

means for enabling the processing system to instigate the communication.

43. (previously presented): A computer readable program according to claim 41, further comprising means for enabling the set-top-box to download a remainder of the computer program upon first use of the input by a user.

44. (previously presented): A method according to claim 36, wherein the output signal represents one of: an email, an electronic address book, and a voicemail message.

45. (original): A program storage device readable by a machine and encoding a program of instructions for executing the method steps of claim 23.

46. (previously presented): A set-top-box adapted to provide an interactive response system comprising:

a processor, and

a memory including software instructions adapted to enable the computer system to perform operations comprising:

accepting an input from a user in response to an output signal produced by a television of a digital television system, the set-top-box being in communication with the television and adapted to convert a received digital television signal into television content; and

triggering a communication between the user and a remote third party, wherein the communication is dependent upon the output signal produced by the television.

47. (currently amended): A computer program product for enabling a set-top-box to provide an interactive response system for a digital television system comprising software instructions for enabling the set-top-box to perform predetermined operations, and a computer readable medium bearing the software instructions, the predetermined operations including:

accepting an input from a user in response to an output signal produced by a television of a digital television system, the set-top-box being in communication with the television and being adapted to convert a received digital television signal into television content operable to receive digital television services; and

triggering a communication between the user and a remote third party, wherein the communication is dependent upon the output signal produced by the television.